

## What is the E.S. doing?

Since 2001, the Environmental Services has surveyed selected inland and coastal wetlands for functional values and culturally significant plants. Information gathered during these assessments was used to develop the LTBB Odawa Wetland Protection Statute that was passed by Tribal Council in 2006.

During the field seasons, the Wetland Specialist conducts habitat and floral surveys, assesses wetland boundaries, and habitat assessments for LTBB wetland properties. The data collected for these properties includes wetland mapping for threatened and endangered species, high quality habitats, invasive species, and culturally significant species.



**Above: *Mitella nuda***  
(Naked miterwort) is a high-quality native plant that inhabits cedar swamps



**Below: Spring flooding**  
from snow melt at a  
LTBB Wetland site



### Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians Environmental Services

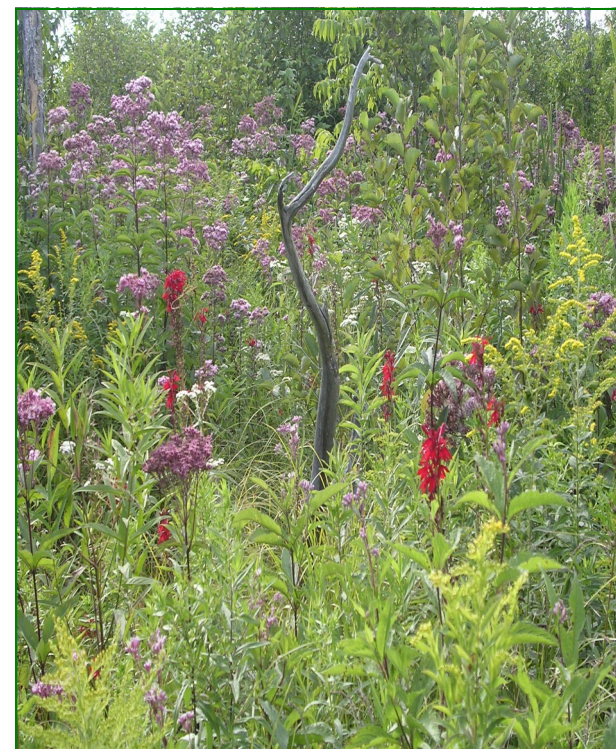
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### Wetland Protection Program





## What are wetlands?



**Cattails around Larks**



**Above: Shallow roots of a cedar tree**

**Right: *Gaultheria hispida* (Creeping snowberry) is a boreal forest plant that can be found in bogs, swamps, and damp coniferous woods.**

Wetlands are complicated parts of the landscape where water is present at or near the surface of the soil for some duration throughout the year, usually long enough to have a controlling influence on the kinds of plants that grow in and around them. The three indicators of wetlands include hydric plants (water-loving plants), hydric soils (soils that develop under wet conditions), and a presence of water.

The biological productivity of wetlands rivals that of tropical rainforests. These “nurseries of life” provide habitat for thousands of species including aquatic and terrestrial plants and animals.



## Why are they Important?

The health and well being of wetlands are important to people, plants, animals, fish, reptiles, and insects. They perform many functions that include:

- ◆ Water pollution control
- ◆ Sediment and erosion control
- ◆ Flood protection
- ◆ Water filtration
- ◆ Habitat for threatened and endangered species
- ◆ Opportunities for wildlife-viewing and education



**Black ash leaves**

## Endangered Species



**Piping plover above  
Dwarf lake iris below right  
Lake Huron tansy below**



Destruction of habitat is the leading cause of extinction of many species. You can help prevent extinction by becoming aware of your impact on wildlife. Visit the Michigan DNR homepage to find out more at <http://www.michigan.gov/dnr>



## Invasive Species



**Above: Purple Loosestrife  
Below: non-native *Phragmites australis* (Common Reed)**



One of the biggest threats to Michigan's native wildlife and plant populations is the spread of invasive species. Plants like purple loosestrife and common reed are replacing important wetland plants. Help stop the spread of invasive by reporting invasive plants to the ESD and removing all plant material from your shoes and clothes as well as your vehicle before and after going into wetland areas.